

CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Charleston Fire and Police Departments Warn of Scam

Contact: Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

Phone: 843-958-6401

E-mail: kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov

Charleston, SC (November 20th, 2015): Recently, the Charleston Fire Department received a phone call from a citizen regarding her elderly mother receiving a call from someone stating they were an employee of the fire department and were soliciting a donation over the phone. The caller asked the citizen for their debit card information

The Charleston Fire and Police Departments do not solicit funds over the phone or in person, and will never request your credit or debit card information. Citizens are encouraged to never give personal information over the phone without first confirming with the organization that a campaign is underway. Here are some additional tips to help you when you receive a similar call:

- Always ask solicitors to identify themselves and provide additional information about the group or people they are representing.
- Ask solicitors to provide detailed written information explaining how your money will be used.
- Contact your local fire or police department to verify whether the solicitors who called or approached you are really raising money for their organization.
- Be cautious of intimidation tactics. Some solicitors will suggest you will receive special treatment from law enforcement if you donate. Don't feel intimidated about declining to give.

If you believe you are receiving a scam or bogus call, try to obtain as much information as possible from the caller and report it to the Charleston Police Department at (843)720-2497 or your local law enforcement agency.

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